

Norwegian Tracks

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THE TORCH IS PASSED: NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP FOR THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER & NAESETH LIBRARY

At the end of 2017, Lowell Olberg completed his full term of nine years on the board of directors, during six of which he served as board chairman. Determined by term limits in NAGC by-laws, board members rotate off after completing three terms of three-years. At the December meeting of the NAGC board, Lowell was unanimously designated as chairman emeritus and was presented with the following citation.

Whereas, his board service over many years greatly contributed to the success of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center; whereas, his philanthropic spirit has united the board, staff, volunteers, and members of our organization; whereas, his leadership has helped double our endowment and improve our facility; whereas, he has shared his devoted enthusiasm and advocacy for our mission; and, whereas, his wonderful generosity in work, wisdom, and wealth has set a high standard for the support of our organization's future; now, therefore, be it resolved that Lowell E. Olberg is universally acclaimed by us as Chairman Emeritus in grateful recognition of his role and continuing devotion to the mission and future of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

Chosen by his board colleagues to serve as new chairman is Dr. Paul O. Larson, who has been NAGC board vice-chairman since 2011. A native of Wisconsin and graduate of St. Olaf College and Madison's University of Wisconsin medical school, Paul was associate professor of surgery and co-director of the Mohs Surgery Clinic at the University of Wisconsin from 1983 until his retirement in 2004. Paul and his spouse Dianne reside in Waunakee, Wisconsin, and are active members of the Norwegian-American community. They are long-time committee members of the Madison-area Friends of NAGC & NL. Paul is a member of the Edvard Grieg Chorus and has served as "boss" of the Madison Torske Klubben. He is currently taking a leadership role in planning for the Sangerfest festival of the Norwegian Singers Association of America that will be held in Madison during 2020. At NAGC, Paul was especially active in his role as head of the board website committee that made important advances for the utility and enrichment of the content in our popular website.



Paul Larson (left) with Lowell Olberg

2019 Class Dates

(See page 10)

Beginning Norwegian Genealogy

June 10 - 11, 2019

Writing Your Family History

July 15 - 16, 2019

Check our website for information on the 2019 tour to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah



Norwegian Tracks

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The purpose of this publication is to assist and encourage genealogists with Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogical questions.

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The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library is an educational non-profit research center with national and international scope. The Center collects, preserves, shares, and interprets resources for the study of Norwegian heritage.

To carry out this mission, the Center provides:

- The Naeseth Library, located in Madison, Wisconsin, where resources devoted to Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy are collected, preserved, shared, and interpreted;
- Assistance, interpretation, education, and research by trained staff to members, patrons, and correspondents;
- Continuing education and outreach for genealogists and the public worldwide through cooperative information exchanges, publications, tours, displays, seminars, and merchandise sales.

NAGC & NL is open to the public Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please telephone ahead, 608-255-2224. An appointment is needed to ensure staff availability and record accessibility.

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“We all carry inside us, people that came before us.” Liam Callanan

I grew up in a family that told Norwegian jokes, worshipped in a Norwegian-American church, sent its offspring to a Norwegian-American school, and celebrated Christmas and Syttende Mai with Norwegian foods such as lefse, rosettes, rømmegrøt, and -- yes -- lutefisk. And I thought being Norwegian was normal. I have since learned to appreciate how unique and special our Norwegian heritage is.

My name is Paul Larson, and I am the new chair of NAGC & NL, replacing recently-retired board chair Lowell Olberg, who so ably served this organization for the last nine years. I grew up in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, to proudly Norwegian-American parents. As is true of many Norwegian-American families, education was very important—they sent all five of their children to St. Olaf College. Three sons (including me) became doctors, and my sisters married lawyers.

My immigrant story is probably typical of many Norwegian families, but still unique. My father's family came from the Gjerpen and Kragero areas of Telemark and Risør in Aust-Agder. My great-grandfather was a ship's carpenter on the Great Lakes when he first arrived in America. My mother's family came from the Rui clan near Seljord, Telemark, descendants of Karl Mathiasson Rui, one of the very early Hardanger fiddle makers in Telemark. My great-grandfather stopped at Even Heg's barn in Koskonong before moving on to Highland Prairie, the religious and cultural center for many Norwegian-American settlers, near Rushford, Minnesota. My grandfather and his new bride, along with other Norwegian settlers, homesteaded on arid land in South Dakota in the early 1900's. My mother was born in a sod hut (soddie), as there was no native timber to be had on the prairies.

I didn't know a lot about my ancestry until a family reunion in 1983. In doing research at the time, I was directed to Gerhard Naeseth. I remember calling him with questions and he told me without hesitation exactly which library shelf to go to, and which call numbers to look for. Cousin Loyal Rue and researcher Øyvind Gulliksen, both at Luther College, gave life to our ancestors. We toured the farm fields that our great-grandparents walked on. We ate apples and planted apple seedlings from their homesteads. Connections were made with long lost family members in Norway, and a return to our ancestral home was organized. We sat in the church where they were baptized and married, and traced with our fingers the initials carved in the family stabur. We listened to music from the strings of a Rui fiddle.

We are the product of our ancestors. We know who we are by knowing about those who have come before us. Take time to find your ancestors, to write your stories for those that come after you. In my position as board chair at NAGC & NL, I pledge to help preserve and enhance our genealogical records which will help you in your quest to find out who you are.



Paul O. Larson

Chairman
Board of Directors

This issue of *Norwegian Tracks* is made possible by generous support from
The Gerhard and Milma Naeseth Charitable Foundation

Important Support for NAGC & NL from The Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc.

In May, NAGC received a generous 2018 grant from the Bryant Foundation for technical advancement in support of modern genealogical research. The ongoing collaborative association between the Bryant Foundation and NAGC continues to enable both organizations to build services as leaders in the field of Norwegian-American genealogical and family history research.

The Bryant Foundation grant is making it possible for NAGC to upgrade its server, router, wifi box, software, and telephone system. The grant also provides support for the acquisition of a state-of-the-art microfilm reader/scanner with PowerScan software. Building on past support, the Bryant Foundation grant also provides funding for

continuing NAGC website development and enrichment.

These technological upgrades are making it possible for NAGC to reconfigure and re-define its physical setting, especially in regard to microfilm research. Smaller and more efficient microfilm resources have helped open up areas for expansion of the library's research collection and created an additional space for researchers' use.

Keeping our Internet, website, microfilm, and genealogical software current is vital to our role as a leading source of family history information for all those who treasure their Norwegian roots. We share our researchers' gratitude to the Bryant Foundation for these significant improvements.



NAGC researchers will enjoy the capability of transferring microfilm scans directly to their USB flash drives for consultation on their own personal computers and devices. The new microfilm reader/scanner will allow users to magnify, isolate, crop, and manipulate images from our microfilm collection. With some hard-to-read older handwriting, the ability to enlarge images makes deciphering older scripts much easier.

Norwegian Genealogy Research Tour to Salt Lake City

Last fall's 2017 genealogical tour to the famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City was once again a great success. As he has been doing every other year, NAGC's Jerry Paulson led the trip and assisted with research and personal consultation with the tour participants. Jerry's expert guidance makes working with the largest collection of genealogical materials in the world less daunting; he brings many years of experience to benefit the NAGC researchers.

Plan ahead for the next tour to Salt Lake City that Jerry will lead in the fall of 2019 by contacting Diane Maurer via dmaurer@nagcnl.org or 608-255-2224.



The 2017 Salt Lake City researchers demonstrate their enthusiasm during the trip. From left: Kayla Kittleson, Carol Holt, Cathy Lubbers, Geri Radatz, and Mary Lou Fortner.

TWELFTH ANNUAL DINNER



Anne V. Lindblom and Grynet Lønnebotn



Edvard Grieg Chorus in performance

Each year since celebrating our status as an independent research library in 2007, the Madison-area Friends of NAGC & NL have organized a dinner and program in support of the Center's annual operating budget. The success of our April 22, 2018 event was entirely due to the enthusiasm of the Friends' committee members, the generosity of the 39 sponsors who made important contributions, the support of donors who gave fine items for the silent auction and raffle, and the attendance of many members and patrons.

The evening was graced by a special performance of Madison's renowned Edvard Grieg Chorus, under the direction of Jonathan Schroerlucke and his assistant director, Linda Svanoe. Especially memorable as a commemoration during the 175th anniversary of the birth of Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), the splendid program included songs dedicated in memory of Naomi Bekkum, Philip Dybdahl, and Trygve Lønnebotn, and *Norge, mitt Norge!* presented as a tribute to E. J. Nordby on his centennial.

The Edvard Grieg Chorus was founded in 1925 and was originally known as the Grieg Mannskor. The group's mission is to preserve and share the choral music and traditions Norwegian immigrants brought with them to America. Shortly after our April event, the Grieg Chorus

travelled to Decorah, Iowa, where they joined in a festival of Norwegian-American male choruses called Sangerfest. As part of their membership in the Norwegian Singers Association of America, the Grieg Chorus has proudly hosted the Sangerfest in Madison during 2010. Plans are already underway for the Grieg Chorus to host the next Sangerfest here in Madison in June 2020.



Ann Leon and Owen Bekkum

TO BENEFIT NAGC & NL



Carolyn White, Nancy Andersen, Janet Nelson Reilley, and Richard Quinnev



Jerry Paulson and Helen Oldberg



David L. Nelson and Don Hoganson



Carol Culbertson with her donated woven vest

NAGC & NL Celebrates with Dr. Nordby

Guests enjoyed some extra excitement at our 2018 Madison-area Friends annual benefit dinner on April 22nd. Since the benefit dinner was held just a week prior to Dr. Nordby's 100th birthday on April 30th, we were all honored to celebrate this memorable centennial.



E. J. Nordby, M.D.

With some witty and memorable remarks and sharing nostalgic photographs, Dr. Nordby's son, Dr. Jon J. Nordby, helped start the festivities. The senior Nordby then took the podium and reminded us that a glass of red wine every day was one of his secrets of longevity.

E. J. Nordby, M.D., has amply demonstrated wonderful leadership for the Norwegian-American community during his life of service and intelligent philanthropy. With his career as orthopaedic surgeon and his partnership of over 72 years with Olive J. Nordby, his remarkably-gifted spouse, Dr. Nordby was well-known in Norway and America, especially in his thirty-year role as President of the Board of Trustees of Vesterheim Museum. On his retirement from that presidency in 1997, he was voted President Emeritus of the Museum. It has been written that, because of Dr. Nordby's critical role, Vesterheim's "...future as a great American museum is assured."



Toast by Jon Nordby

It was in 1977 that Dr. Nordby joined Gerhard Naeseth and other prominent Madisonians in their founding of Madison's Torske Klubben, of which Gene Nordby was "Boss" during its first twenty years. Dr. Nordby, long-time friend of Gerhard Naeseth, was among the early advocates in support of a Norwegian-American genealogical center in Madison. Dr. Nordby also served on NAGC's board of directors, established at the time of its independence in 2007, and continues his ardent support for our work. In recognition of his many contributions, Dr. Nordby was created Knight, First Class, of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav.

PASSION AND PERSISTENCE: THE 36-YEAR FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN DR. STAN HULTGREN (1941-2018) AND THE STAFF OF THE NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER

AS IN MOST GENEALOGICAL PURSUITS, THERE ARE PERIODS OF GREAT SUCCESS AS WELL AS PERIODS OF FRUSTRATION AND SOUL-SEARCHING ABOUT "WHY, ME?" BUT I'VE FOUND PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF IN THE LONG RUN.

-- STAN HULTGREN TO GERHARD NÆSETH, 1985



In January 2018, NAGC staffers were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of their Eugene, Oregon, friend, Stan Hultgren. In the weeks preceding his death, Stan had been in frequent contact with NAGC, donating research materials, passing along tips, contributing to our annual fund, and acting as our West Coast advocate. Stan's obituary included:

"He was an avid family historian, having spent 36 years researching his family history. After thousands of hours of research, he wrote 11 books about his family to share with his sister and cousins. He also shared his genealogical knowledge by giving presentations and giving classes on this topic. This hobby took him to Scandinavia numerous times to visit relatives and the ancestral homes of his four grandparents. He was a member of several Scandinavian genealogical and historical societies in both the United States and Scandinavia, and was a life member of the Norwegian American Historical Association, Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, the Norwegian American Genealogical Center, and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center..."

Stan Hultgren first began corresponding with Gerhard Naeseth in 1983, seeking assistance about one of his great-grandfather's brothers, Thore Ingebretsen, from Lesja in Oppland. After two years of research, Stan discovered that this ancestor of his never came to America. During these years, Gerhard and Stan exchanged many letters, some with requests for research, others with suggestions about new publications or resources. Stan soon became a Life Member and fan of the "Norwegian Tracks"

newsletter. In 1987, Stan wrote: "...enjoyed the last issue and especially appreciated the list of resources...such a listing is not without risks, such as stimulating more inquiries!"

The Hultgren-Naeseth correspondence spans a time of great change in genealogical research and practice. Late in 1987, Gerhard wrote: "I have on order a personal computer. My plan is to do as much indexing as possible... My problem: Finding the time!" For the first decade of their friendship, the letters always contain the correct salutations, "Dear Mr. Naeseth" and "Dear Dr. Hultgren." By early 1993, however, we find "Dear Gerhard" and "Dear Stan." In 1993, Stan writes: "My Norwegian immigrant grandparents came to Stoughton...I do live in Oregon, but alas it is the one on the West Coast and not the one south of Madison!!"

One remarkable letter in 1993 sparked memories of 60 years earlier. When cleaning out his mother's house, Stan found a 1933 program from the Luther College Choir's performance in Boise, Idaho. Stan wrote to Gerhard: "You were a member of that group, along with a relative of mine, Vernon J. Engebretson...how you crossed paths with my family..." Gerhard responded: "Yes, I remember the West Coast Tour in 1933...For a twenty-year-old, it was quite an adventure...And I remember Vernon Engebretson."

Alternate Numbers

(Not on regular program but substituted on occasion)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Psalm 23 | Schubert |
| 2. Kirken den er et gamelt hus | Lindemann |
| 3. Nu hviler mark og ønge | Isaac-Mendelssohn |
| 4. Fjell-Norig | Sparre Olsen |
| 5. Landsighting | Orieg |
| 6. Kyrie at Sea | Duerrner |
| 7. By Babylon's Wave | Gounod |
| 8. Zum Sanctus | Schubert |
| 9. Soli Deo Gloria | Sihler |

Luther College Chorus Personnel Decorah, Iowa

FIRST CHORUS

Russel G. Bakken, '38, Ridgeway, Wis.
 Reuben A. Hegre, '34, Madison, Minn.
 Howard A. Helms, '34, Spring Grove, Minn.
 Paul T. Hoyem, '31, Decorah, Iowa
 Alvin B. Mikkelsen, '38, Clarksville, Minn.
 Gerhard B. Naeseth, '34, Morrisouville, Wis.
 Gordon L. Nelson, '33, Sand Creek, Wis.
 Trygve N. Nustad, '32, La Crosse, Wis.
 Sigurd J. Ode, '26, Decorah, Iowa
 Clifford B. Quammen, '22, Blair, Wis.
 Maurice Wemark, '33, Ridgeway, Iowa
 Edward W. Wilson, '30, Chicago, Ill.
Tenors
 Harold J. Belgum, '33, Starbuck, Minn.
 Vernon C. Brandt, '36, Starbuck, Minn.
 Arthur O. Davidson, '31, Oeslan, Iowa
 Ruben H. Huesemann, '28, Manno, S. D.
 Harold B. Hoff, '35, Decorah, Iowa
 Valdemar N. L. Johnson, '31, Hayti, S. D.
 Gerhard O. Larsgaard, '30, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Bjalne R. Nelson, '34, Fergus Falls, Minn.
 Vernon W. Ringstad, '32, Jewell, Iowa
 Ruben B. Rogness, '34, Oeslan, Iowa
 Edward G. Strassman, '38, Belgrade, Minn.
 Oscar A. Sweeney, '31, Ryden, N. D.

SECOND CHORUS

Olaf O. Brandt, '34, St. Paul, Minn.
 Godfred I. Ervold, '21, Midway, Minn.
 Vernon J. Engebretson, '34, Oeslan, Iowa
 P. Sharnan Erickson, '32, Decorah, Ia.
 Milton G. Gulsberg, '38, Sunburg, Minn.
 Roy M. Lee, '35, Decorah, Iowa
 Rolf C. Moe, '38, Stoddard, Wis.
 Eivind J. Nesset, '35, Canby, Minn.
 Lauren B. Nesset, '31, Canby, Minn.
 Andrew W. Seltzer, '31, Rooton, Wis.
 R. Philip Thomsen, '32, Whitehall, Wis.
Bassos
 James Amundson, '34, Decorah, Iowa
 Paul G. Gudal, '33, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Paul M. Halvorsen, '21, Beloit, Wis.
 August W. Krause, '33, Penton, Iowa
 H. Lorry Lidstrom, '23, Beloit, Minn.
 Christian H. Magesse, '33, Beloit, Minn.
 Henry A. Olson, '31, Independence, Wis.
 Rolf G. Olson, '30, Dallas, Wis.
 Elvin M. Raterbak, '32, Madison, Minn.
 Raymond F. Saire, '32, Madison, Minn.

PRESS OF PUBLIC OPINION DECORAH, IOWA

SCHOLA CANTORUM

LUTHER COLLEGE

Decorah, Iowa

THEODORE NICKEL
Director

L. A. MOE
Manager

Fourth Season 1933
West Coast Tour

Motto: Cantate Domino

This program is yours through the courtesy of the Decorah Chamber of Commerce. Decorah invites you to visit its scenic wonders such as Ice Cave, Dunning's Springs and Pulpit Rock. Its 180 acres of parks, the Norwegian-American Historical Museum, Luther College (established 1861), and the Decorah Junior College for girls.

"You'll Like Decorah"

Late in 1993 and 1994, this poignant exchange occurred, with Stan writing: "Congratulations on the publication of Volume One of your *Norwegian Immigrants to the U.S.* On behalf of all of us Norwegian-Americans *mange tusen takk* for all the work you have done over the years to preserve, increase awareness, and understand our common Norwegian heritage, one that I am deeply steeped in and love."

Gerhard responded in January 1994: "I am delighted that we have been able to publish Volume One. I have developed some serious health problems. Thus, it has been a real boost in morale for me to get the help of two local ladies in continuing the research on later volumes..."

Gerhard Naeseth died in June 1994, but the story does not end there. During the 1990's, Stan visited Madison and pursued research with Blaine Hedberg, and became friends also with staff members Carol Culbertson and Jerry Paulson. In 2006, Stan wrote to Jerry: "I have been there on two occasions and know what a valuable resource it is for those researching our Norwegian ancestry. I extend my personal thanks to all the staff and volunteers that make your center the premier resource for Norwegian research."

In 2009, Stan wrote to Kathleen Olson, NAGC's library services specialist: "In researching my family, I spent many hours researching and organizing the enclosed descendants of Torbiørn Larsen of Siljan, Telemark, only to find that none of these people are in my family tree...I decided to send these materials to you and let you determine if you want to add this research to your holdings..." Kathleen quickly responded: "If it is any consolation, I am confident that a descendant of Torbiørn will be thrilled to reap the rewards of your mistake!"

For over thirty years, Stan Hultgren donated important research publications for the Naeseth Library. These resources included some of the family histories he had compiled:

The Genealogy of Haagen Ingebrigtsen from Lesja, Oppland, to Hamilton County, Iowa, and descendants

The Genealogy of John Engebretson from Lesja, Oppland, to Glenwood, Pope, Minnesota

Norway to America: The Stories of Oluf Meyer Knudsen and Manda Ingebrigtsdatter

Stan wrote to Kathleen, "It is my hope that adding these family histories to your collection will increase the chances they will get used. When sitting on a shelf in my study, they only gather dust."

In 2015, Stan was in email correspondence with staffers Solveig Quinney and Diane Maurer, thanking them for assistance they provided to one of his family from Texas who visited the Naeseth Library. Stan wrote: "I have been trying to drum up some business for you guys!!" Often chatting with Diane on the telephone about his most recent donations, Stan was always thoughtful about sending new research materials for the Library. He often ended his messages with "*Takk igjen og ha det bra og god sommer*" or "*takk for hjelpen.*" Donating yet another volume in 2016, Stan wrote to Diane: "I am pleased to add another layer of my family history to the collection at the Naeseth Library."

From 1983 to 2018, few researchers were as consistently concerned as Stan Hultgren was with building up the collections of the Naeseth Library. He also first researched his own family at length and then donated to NAGC's annual fund in memory of his ancestors. And, lest any readers think Stan Hultgren had only time for genealogy, we hasten to add that he was a life-long educator, earning his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Oregon where he was an adjunct professor for 18 years before his retirement in 1998. For 43 years, Stan was also a spotter at University of Oregon football games, assisting the team's public address announcer.

After Stan's death, his spouse Barbara Ohlsen donated a wonderful collection of 34 books from Stan's library, allowing Jerry Paulson to make a selection of titles not yet in the Naeseth Library. This collection makes a lovely and appropriate memorial. (See photo below.)

Stan Hultgren's legacy is an important one for all of us here at NAGC. We are indebted to him for his thoughtful generosity and we treasure the memory of the friendship he extended to three generations of NAGC staff. We think of him often with a smile, remembering how he signed off on one message to Diane:

"Norwegianly,
Stan"



In Memoriam



Naomi Flugstad Bekkum (1922-2018)

The NAGC board and staff mourn the death of our friend, patron, and life member: Naomi Bekkum. Together with her spouse Owen, Naomi was a leading advocate and generous donor for NAGC. Working hand-in-hand, the Bekkums provided crucial support on many levels. For years, Naomi and Owen, surrounded by her Flugstad

family members, were the most important sponsors of NAGC's annual benefit dinner, events where Naomi always led the Norwegian table prayer. In 2013, the Bekkums together made a major donation to help NAGC publish the volume titled "Olive Jensen Nordby, A Retrospective of Her Art." This volume, sold to create income for NAGC, described the artistic career and contributions of the Bekkums' great friend, Olive Nordby.

Naomi was also an ardent and dedicated genealogical researcher, creating two family histories that are models of their kind. Naomi's roots run deep in the Westby – Coon Prairie area of western Wisconsin. In 2001, working on a portable typewriter, Naomi created the family history of her maternal grandparents, Halvor and Bendikka Vangum Pederson. Halvor was born in Ringsaker and arrived in Vernon County in 1854. Bendikka was born in Gausdal and came to Wisconsin in 1866.

Researching the paternal side of her family, Naomi contributed much to a family history called "The Johannes Flugstad Story," which was completed in 2016. Jerry Paulson, the senior NAGC genealogical researcher, remembers well the day that Naomi was pleased to donate a copy of the completed book for the Naeseth Library, to thank Jerry for the research help he had provided. Naomi's paternal grandfather had been born in Ringsaker and arrived in Vernon County in 1857; her paternal grandmother, Hannah Justdatter, was born in Eidsvold and came to the Coon Prairie area in 1859.

In many ways, Naomi's life-long interests and talents contributed much to her support of our research center. In her formal education, library science and music education were primary interests. When she retired from teaching music in 1984, she had 40 years of experience in the classroom. At Madison's Bethel Lutheran Church, Naomi enjoyed giving classes in Norwegian heritage and working in the church library and archives.

Writing in the introduction to the Flugstad family history, Naomi reflected on the importance of this work:



"Genealogy is a living and ongoing process. Recording the past, living the present, and looking to the future as well. The legacy of the Flugstad family history did not feel complete until the Story was told in as full a manner as possible...I know others will carry on this process, keeping relationships alive and their history living, as we move ahead into ever changing times."

Pearl M. Cramer (1925-2017)

We have recently learned of the death of our patron and member Pearl Cramer in Santa Maria, California. Mrs. Cramer first communicated with Gerhard Naeseth in 1989, exchanging information about her maternal great-grandparents



(Simon Kristenson and Berith Amundsdatter), who left Vardal in 1867 and settled in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. Mrs. Cramer also later travelled to Norway on a genealogical tour organized by Gerhard Naeseth and Blaine Hedberg.

In 2012, Mrs. Cramer became one of NAGC's most generous donors when she made a major donation that established the Cramer Legacy Fund -- to further the mission and work of the Center. Mrs. Cramer's gift was an important, early investment in support of the newly-independent NAGC. We are most grateful that Mrs. Cramer generously remembered NAGC through her donor-advised fund at a crucial moment in our development.

Virginia Gjermo Papcke and Harry W. Papcke (both 1929-2018)



Virginia Papcke died in May of this year, less than a month after the death of her spouse of 65 years, Harry W. Papcke. The last line of Mrs. Papcke's obituary said

it well: "Virginia and Harry were a team in 4-H and in family history activities and are now reunited again."

Growing up in Stoughton, Virginia Mae Gjermo met Harry Papcke when she was a delegate to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. Mr. Papcke had a life-long connection to the 4-H organization, starting when he joined the LaGrange Live Wires 4-H Club at the age of 7, and continuing as county 4-H agent in Juneau and Dane Counties. During his 34-year career, Mr. Papcke brought countless ideas to make Dane County 4-H grow. One of his most successful and inspired promotions was the introduction of genealogical research into 4-H programming.

Mrs. Papcke enjoyed collecting and researching family history; together the Papckes were historians for family reunions. In their 4-H and genealogical circles, they inspired many others, including NAGC's staff members Jerry Paulson and Carol Culbertson. Both the Papckes

were life members of NAGC, as well as members of the South Central Chapter of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. In travel to Norway, to visit cousins and family homestead sites, and in hospitality to Norwegian relatives who visited Madison, the Papckes pursued their Norwegian family history and heritage.

The Papckes designated NAGC & NL as the recipient of their memorials, and NAGC has received many thoughtful and generous donations from their family and friends in the past months, creating the Virginia and Harry Papcke Memorial Fund, a most fitting recognition of important contributions to Norwegian-American genealogy.

Midwestern Cultures

Information of interest to the Norwegian-American community

Save the date for a 2019 Symposium on Scandinavian Traditional Arts

Our friends at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures would like to invite all NAGC members and patrons to a symposium that will be held in Madison from 2-4 May 2019. "Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest" is a grant-funded program that will bring Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American folk artists, scholars, and community members together for this symposium. Following last year's successful "World Record Symposium," which focused on Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American music in the Upper Midwest, the 2019 event will focus on material folk arts in the region. The symposium will include artist demonstrations of fiber arts, woodcarving, and more, as well as artist presentation panels covering topics such as apprenticeships, sustaining traditions, and folk arts education. All events are free and open to the public, and will be held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. For more information, consult <https://folklife.wisc.edu/>.

Local Centers/Global Sounds: Historic Recordings and Midwestern Musical Vernaculars

University of Wisconsin-Madison's Mills Music Library and Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures have made available online a growing collection of unique, historic, regional, and endangered sound recordings, with related documentation.

These include 78-rpm recordings produced for immigrant, ethnic, and indigenous audiences by American companies in the first half of the 20th century, and more than 700 hours of original field and home recordings from the 1950s through the 1990s. This material includes dance tunes, ballads, lyric songs, hymns, laments, political anthems, and recitations, together with extensive interviews of many performers. The collection is searchable by name, town or place, type of music, language, recording date, keywords, etc. This resource also offers full audio streams whenever possible, photographic images, field notes, tape indices, and translations of titles. Consult <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/localcenters/>.

A History of the Norwegian Immigration of Berges and Patersons to Wisconsin

In June, NAGC board member Paul Berge donated a copy of his impressive family history for the Naeseth Library. This handsome, bound volume has now been catalogued and shelved with the other NAGC family histories, joining this collection that is one of the most important resources of the Naeseth Library.



Paul was inspired to carry out this project, dedicating the volume to his parents and to his wife, Mary Kunz Berge (1937-2012). It was Mary Berge who began the research on the Berge and Peterson families; Paul took over the research, writing, compiling, editing, and publication of the family history. He notes, "What began as a purely genealogical project evolved into a history of my ancestors, as well as a biographical review of my siblings, children, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren."

Richly illustrated throughout with images from family photographs and historic documents, the book includes information about Norwegian and American geography and immigration history, with in-depth sections about the Vestre Slidre area in Norway and the Manitowoc County area in Wisconsin. Many researchers will consult the volume, not only for its contents, but also as a model for how to write, compile, and publish a useful family history.

On Paul's paternal side, his family name was originally Berji, and his great grandfather, Ole Knudsen Berge (1840-1919), emigrated from the Berge farms area located in Vestre Slidre between the villages of Slidre and Røn. He settled in Manitowoc County and was married and died in Valders, Wisconsin. On Paul's maternal side, his great, great grandfather was Arne Pederson (1808-1886) who emigrated in 1856. He had been born in Kongsvinger Commune in Hedmark, about 70 miles northeast of Oslo. Arne Peterson settled in the Wisconsin township of Gibson, Manitowoc County.

The volume includes not only interesting historic records and charts, but also demonstrates the value of recording and including descendants as well as ancestors. The many living people in Paul's history include some of his relatives that he has visited in Norway. This travel enlivens the stories as Paul is able to include comments like: "...the topography of the Berge Farms presents a picturesque landscape of the east side of the Slidre Fjord." Paul's memories are also a treasure for his family. He writes, "My father never wanted any of his kids, grandkids, or great grandkids to forget their Norwegian background."

This Berge/Peterson family history was accomplished over many years, and Paul consulted with NAGC's Jerry Paulson about some of its details. The volume richly accomplishes what Paul describes in his introduction: "This book was written to provide future generations with information about their heritage and the migration of our ancestors to America from Norway."



Recent Acquisitions

We offer our sincere thanks to the donors listed below who gave research materials for the Naeseth Library during the period from November 2017 through May 2018.

New Family Histories

- Vicky and Mike Christiason, Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Robert A. Halvorsen, Sr., Cape May Court House, New Jersey
- Mel C. Haugan, Peoria, Arizona
- Judith Lynn, Monona, Wisconsin
- Michael Nelson, Oak Park, Illinois
- Harold S. Ulvestad, Shorewood, Minnesota

New Norwegian Local Histories & Reference

- John Reindal, Madison, Wisconsin
- Halvor Skurtveit, Fjell, Hordaland, Norway
- Randsfjordmuseene AS, Brandbu, Norway

New U.S. Local and Family Histories

- Roland Krogstad, Madison, Wisconsin

Other Research Materials

- Christopher Brand, Fitchburg, Wisconsin
- Patricia Dahl, Rushford, Minnesota
- Robert Fossum, Chetek, Wisconsin
- Richard Fretheim, Kalispell, Montana
- Joe Gartner, Fillmore County, Minnesota
- Estate of Rose and Raymond Haakonsen, Fox River Grove, Illinois
- Robert A. Halvorsen, Sr., Cape May Court House, New Jersey
- E. J. Nordby, Madison, Wisconsin
- Liv Paulson Norderhaug, Eden Prairie, Minnesota
- Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota
- Barbara Ohlsen, Eugene, Oregon
- Solveig and Richard Quinney, Madison, Wisconsin
- Norse Valley Sons of Norway Lodge, Appleton, Wisconsin
- Ginny White, Madison, Wisconsin

We are also grateful for the two acquisitions funds that continue to support additions to the library collections at NAGC, the William Helgeson Fund and the ~~Loper~~ *Loper* Fund for North Norway acquisitions.

For a complete listing of authors, titles, and subjects of these new acquisitions, please consult our website, www.nagcnl.org in our "Research" section, and follow its drop-down box to select: "Recent Acquisitions."

If you do not have Internet access, please phone us at 608-255-2224 to request a copy of this new acquisitions list. We thank our many generous donors for helping build the research collections at the Naeseth Library.

NOTES FROM THE NAESETH LIBRARY CONTINUING POPULARITY OF NAGC CLASSES

During June and July, Jerry Paulson's two genealogy classes at the Naeseth Library attracted record-breaking attendance. While most of the participants were from the Upper Midwest, some researchers came from as far away as Pennsylvania, Texas, and Arizona to take part in the two-day sessions. In June, ten people enjoyed Jerry's popular "Beginning Norwegian Genealogy," quickly followed by ten enrollees in Jerry's "Writing Your Family History" class in July. One researcher enrolled in both classes.

After attending the writing class, Anita Streich, Information and Community Services Librarian at Beaver Dam (Wisconsin) Community Library, wrote: "I was floating on a cloud after the class. The excellence of Jerry's instruction and all of the wonderful participants made the class very special. I love writing, but I rarely have the time to sit down to write. It was wonderful to take a pause in life to start getting some of these stories on paper..."

Held each year in June, the Beginning Genealogy Class is the perfect introduction to Norwegian and Norwegian-American records and resources. The Writing Your Family History Class in July is offered to those who would like to write their family histories in a way that is clear, enjoyable, and permanent.

If you like to plan ahead, mark your calendar:

Monday/Tuesday -- 10, 11 June 2019
Beginning Norwegian Genealogy

Monday/Tuesday -- 15, 16 July 2019
Writing Your Family History

Contact Diane Maurer for additional information. Diane, NAGC's coordinator of member services, will be happy to help you make plans for the 2019 summer classes and can be reached via 608-255-2224 or dmaurer@nagcnl.org



Beginning Norwegian Genealogy Class 2018

Front: Jack Lofte, Sharon Stauffer, Linda Dachel, Dawn Gunderson, Ted Laws
Back: Susan Trewyn, David Anderson, Jason Gambach, Instructor Jerry Paulson, Stephanie Campbell, John Haugen



Writing Your Family History Class 2018

Front: Warner Bartleson, Kristin Helland, Jack Lofte, Laurie Barrett, Sara Bartleson
Back: David Anderson, Donna Danowski, Anita Streich, Instructor Jerry Paulson, Merlin Hoiseth



Olive J. Nordby Card Sale

Hand-colored woodblock prints
adapted as Christmas or note cards
5 x 7 inches with envelopes

Printed greeting inside: *God jul og godt nyttår*
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Also available as a note card, blank interior

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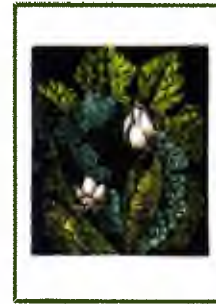
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Summer

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cards are 5 x 7 inches
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Bloodroot



Iris

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 Package/s of *Norwegian Fjord Horses* — Note Cards (blank interior) @ \$10/package \$ _____
 Package/s of *Winter in Lillehammer* — Note Cards (blank interior) @ \$10/package \$ _____
 Package/s of *A Garden Miscellany* — Note Cards (blank interior) @ \$10/package \$ _____

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You may also place your order through the NAGC e-Store at nagcnl.org, or by phone at (608) 255-2224

Norwegian Tracks

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In June, the wonderful volunteers from Appleton's Norse Valley Sons of Norway Lodge once again visited NAGC. These friends hold a work day here each summer, helping with exterior cleaning, moving books, repairing electrical fixtures, and preparing mailings. We are very grateful to the Norse Valley volunteers!

Back, from left: Pete Vandenberg, Roger Johnson, David Ostrem
Front, from left: Penny Malcolm, Mary Vandenberg, Leah Johnson



Intrepid genealogical researcher and friend to NAGC, John O. Glesne of Fort Dodge, Iowa, recently decided that the Naeseth Library should have some good china pieces, for use of the Center when entertaining. John donated some wonderful pieces of "Farmer's Rose" china, the most popular Porsgrund pattern. With 18 cups, saucers, dessert plates, and a coffee service, we now have, thanks to John's generosity, a rather elegant way to offer refreshments for our special visitors to the Naeseth Library. Many thanks to John for this thoughtful and useful donation.